DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY J.L. SMITH DATE NOV 2 2 1982

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TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) 1.3(c)(5)
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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

168

EXCISE

(OVER)

5-M

GF 303

TELEGRAPH BRANCH
OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
SECRET

Action
EUR

Control: 1664
Rec'd: July 5, 1950
6:37 p.m.

FROM: Brussels

Info
SS
G
P
OLI
CIA
AAN
DCR

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 20, July 5, 7 p.m.

Re EMBTEL 13, July 5.

[redacted] Prime Minister had not intended to announce joint session of two houses of Parliament until today, but [redacted] B-1

[redacted] B-1

[redacted] the decree was signed yesterday. Government had not intended open debate until Tuesday first day in parliamentary week. Therefore, source understood that meetings tomorrow and Friday will be devoted procedural matters such as selection presiding officer and to obstructionist tactics by opposition. He thought debate proper would begin on Tuesday 11th and presumably be finished Wednesday 12th, unless incidents and obstructionist tactics further postpone vote. He added that the PSC will not answer opposition speeches. Thus King may return 12th or any day thereafter. Source's guess is Saturday 15th.

XR 755.11

Source pointed out that Prince signed decree at his house near sea and that this signifies that he will undertake no further official acts. Prince was particularly desirous of fading out of picture as inconspicuously as possible and the lowering of flag at palace when restrictions on return of King are removed will be only visual sign of departure of Prince and household, [redacted] B-1

[redacted] B-1

Those unfavorable to return of King insist that there will be constant and possibly serious incidents, and those favorable to his return insist that Belgians are fed up with question and traditional love of dynasty will soon cause royal question to fade. It is an unprecedented situation in which logic has been pushed aside by both parties whose approach to question is essentially emotional.

MURPHY

PAF:MMG

SECRET

755.00/7-550

SECRET FILE

HH

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